

Yesterday we learnt about Bilal (r). The lessons we learn from his life are:

1. His firmness upon Tauheed. Allah gave him steadfastness upon Tauheed. We must also believe in Allah firmly and become steadfast in good work. This will bring us Allah's love and honour in this life and the next
2. We learn from his life many other lessons also: his accomplishments, we should see what we can do also.
 - He had a beautiful voice, he gave adhan. Your children, do they like to give adhan? If not in masjid, at least at home? If not 5 times a day then at least 2-3 times when the entire family is ready to pray. Also teach them how to make the iqamah. Refer to the books of Salah to learn the words and manner of Iqamah.
 - Bilal (r) would call the Prophet (s) for prayer. He gave the adhan and personally came to inform him (s). Even though everyone knows it is time for prayer, they have heard the adhan, we should remind the people in our house to pray, and this includes the adults and the children. Do not get upset as to why you have to remind them.
 - Bilal (r) made important announcements. Teach children how to deliver messages correctly, accurately, without increase or decrease.
 - The Prophet (s) asked the companions to do different things, even though he could do them himself. He made them do it in order to give them responsibility, because without it people cannot learn. They have to be assigned, trusted, delegated so they can learn.
 - Bilal (r) was the treasurer of the Prophet (s), and handled money. Again, teach your children how to manage money. Give them small tasks to do with regards to finances.
 - The Prophet (s) made dua for Bilal, and Bilal would respond to him very lovingly and respectfully.
 - Anything else? His taharah, wudu, nawaafil. Share this hadith with your children so they realize the importance of Salah. This is your daily homework, whether I assign it or not you must share what you learn here with your family. This will help you revise what you have studied and also gives you an opportunity to convey. We can advise our children, but the words of the Prophet (s) will have a far better effect. You don't have to lecture them for over an hour, but you can summarize what you have learnt in 5 minutes.
 - Bilal (r) would stand guard for the Prophet (s). Again, you can assign such duties to children, to watch something, keep an eye on

something etc. Not just at home, but in a class you may teach, or amongst relatives...

- Bilal (r) would get up instantly upon hearing the Prophet (s). And at another occasion the Prophet (s) asked him three times to prepare Iftar, but he said it was not yet time. This was not because he was disputing with the Prophet (s), but he really believed it was not yet time for Iftar. We learnt that Bilal (r) had a problem in his vision so it was perhaps because of that that he was mistaken. But we see the way the Prophet (s) responded to him at this occasion: he repeated himself in the same manner, in the same words: without increase or decrease of volume / force. Sometimes we ask our children to do something, they do not do it - just repeat yourself instead of yelling, or making a face... IF we yell, they will block their ears and ignore what you are saying.
- I hope there is an increase in your voluntary prayers. Knowledge is for the purpose of action so we must act upon what we are learning.
- We preach against racism, but the best example is in the life of the Prophet (s) - where the colour, social status of people is put aside and they are valued for their Iman.